

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-14 ACDA-12 DOE-15

SOE-02 EB-08 /136 W

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R 312232Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9389

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PORG, OCON, ECIN, AR, PE

SUBJECT: ARGENTINA'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS VISIT TO

PERU (ARCH 28-30)

SUMMARY: ARGENTINA AND PERU ISSUED A LENGTHY JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MARCH 28-30 OFFICIAL VISIT OF ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER, VICE ADMIRAL OSCAR ANTONIO MONTES, WHICH INCLUDED A 45 MINUTE CALL ON PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ. AFTER THE SIGNING CREMONIES, GOP FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE DE LA PUENTE R. ANNOUNCED THAT PERUVIAN PRESIDENT FRANCISCO MORALES BERMUDEZ WAS PLANNING TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ARGENTINA SOMETIME DURING MAY. THE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED MINISTERIAL VISIT APPEARED TO BE WELL RECEIVED HERE, AND THE COMMUNIQUE, WHILE CONTAINING NO SURPRISES, UNDERScoreD THE DESIRE OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO IMPORVE BILATERAL RELATIONS AND COORDINATE THEIR POSITIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. IN PRESS CONFERENCES, MONTES REITERATED ARGENTINA'S SUPPORT FOR BOLIVIA'S ACCESS TO THE SEA; AND DE LA PUENTE LINKED HUMAN RIGHTS TO U.S. TRADE POLICIES. HOWEVER, NEITHER SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED DIRECTLY IN THE COMMUNIQUE. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSED INTENTIONS TO INCREASE BILATERAL PROGRAMS IN SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND NOTED THE MINISTERS' SATISFACTION AT THE PROGRESS REGISTERED SO FAR BY THE LATING AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA). THEIR STATEMENT STRESSED THE NEED FOR PROGRESS IN LATING AMERICA'S ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND URGED INCREASED

CONSULTATION AMONG THE ANDEAN PACT COUNTRIES AND OTHER MEMBERS OF ALALC, SPECIFICALLY ENCOURAGING THE MEXED ANDEAN-ARGENTINE COMMISSION'S WORK IN ITS INDUSTRIAL PROGRAM.

2. FOREIGN MINISTERS ENDORSED OAS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AND MAINTAIN HEMISPHERIC PEACE AND PROMISED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD COLLABORATE IN THE RESTRUCTING OF OAS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE AGREEMENTS OF THE OAS SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE MINISTERS ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE LOS CONFERENCE AND THE COORDINATED EFFORTS THEIR COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN MAKING THERE (ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON THIS ISSUE FOLLOW IN SEPTTEL).

3. AFTER ENDORSING UN EFFORTS TOWARD ESTABLISHING THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER CALLED FOR BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE COMMUNIQUE APPLAUDED UN PEACE-KEEPING EFFORTS AND SUPPORTED IMPROVEMENTS OF THIS UN CAPACITY. THE COMMUNIQUE DESCRIBED THE ARMS RACE, PARTICULARLY AMONG NUCLEAR POWERS, AS THE GREATEST THREAT TO WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY. IN COMMENTS TO THE PRESS, DE LA PUENTE NOTED THAT ARGENTINA AND PERU WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING A COORDINATED LATIN AMERICAN POSITION IN MULTI-LATERAL FORUMS. IN THIS REGARD THE COMMUNIQUE CITED THE UPCOMING UN DISARMAMENTCONFERENCE, THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER AS AGREED IN THE UN, PARTICIPATION IN THE NAM MEETINGS IN KABUL AND BELGRADE AND THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION SCHEDULED TO MEET IN BUENOS AIRES THIS YEAR AS SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE PEACE AND DETENTE IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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WORLD.

4. ON THE BILATERAL SIDE, FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA PUENTE TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE MININISTERS' DISCUSSIONS EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MAY MEETING OF THE SPECIAL PERUVIAN-ARGENTINE COORDINATION COMMISSION TO DISCUSS COMMERCIAL QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY STEEL SALES. ARGENTINE-PERUVIAN COOPERATION ON NUCLEAR ENERGY WAS NOTED WITH SATISFACTION IN THE COMMUNIQUE. (SEPTTEL ON NUCLEAR ENERGY ISSUE FOLLOWS) AND ITS IMPORTANCE UNDERSCORED BY DE LA PUENTE'S REMARKS TO THE PRESS.

5. ALTHOUGH THE ISSUES OF U.S. TRADE POLICIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS WERE NOT REPEAT NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, RESPONDING TO A PRESS QUERY ABOUT PRIMARY PRODUCTS, STATED THAT GOP HAD PRESENTED ITS VIEWS ON COPPER, ZINC, ETC., TO THE OAS. PERU HOPED THAT THE U.S. UNDERSTOOD THE CLOSE RELATION BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS, HE COMMENTED, AND THAT CLOSING U.S. MARKETS TO LATIN AMERICAN GOODS COULD PRODUCE GRAVE SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND TENSIONS IN THE CONTINENT.

6. ON REGIONAL, IISSUES, ARGENTINE MINISTER MONTES, IN HIS

PRESS COMMENTS, REPEATED ARGENTINA'S SUPPORT FOR A SOLUTION TO BOLIVIA'S DESIRE FOR A SEA OUTLET, ALTHOUGH HE COMMUNIQUE DID NOT REPEAT NOT DISCUSS THE ISSUE. THE COMMUNIQUE DID EXPRESS FULL GOP SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINA'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE MALVINAS ISLANDS AND BOTH COUNTRIES' CONFIDENCE THAT THE GOA-UK NEGOTIATIONS WOULD ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT SATISFACTORY TO BOTH PARTIES BUT MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE (COPY OF COMMUNIQUE POUCHED ARGENTINE DESK).

COMMENT: THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS WARMLY RECEIVED AND THE GOP OBVIOUSLY ENCOURAGED CONSIDERABLE FAVORABLY PUBLICITY ABOUT HIS VISIT IN THE MEDIA. FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA PUENTE TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE MINISTERS HAD TREATED ALL OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES IN THE LATING AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN A UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT TO SEEK SOLUTIONS,
BUT AMONG THESE PROBLEMS THE COMMUNIQUE REFERRED ONLY TO THE MALVINAS ISLANDS ISSUE.
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